

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 through 4 and 6 through 19 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 are herein amended. Claims 2 and 20 are herein canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 6 through 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lungu (U.S. Pat. No. 4,524,797) in view of Rieck et al. (U.S. Pre-grant Pub. No. 2002/067100), as evidenced by Rieck et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,700,232). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 1 has been amended herein to add the limitations of allowable Claim 2 and Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 1 should therefore be in condition for allowance. Because Claims 6 through 8 depend from Claim 1, Claims 6 through 8 should also be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 1 and 6 through 8.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lungu (U.S. Pat. No. 4,524,797) in view of Rieck et al. (U.S. Pregrant Pub. No. 2002/067100), as evidenced by Rieck et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,700,232) and in further view of Guerrero (U.S. Pat. No. 6,301,113). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 has been herein canceled without prejudice, rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 20 moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 12 through 19 are allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indication of allowed subject matter.

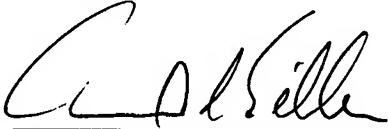
The Examiner states that Claims 2 through 4 and 9 through 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As noted herein, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 2 and Claim 2 has been canceled. Therefore, Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Because Claim 2 has been canceled and its subject matter incorporated in Claim 1, Claim 3 has been herein amended to depend from Claim 1. Because each of Claims 3 through 4 and 9 through 11 depend from Claim 1, each of Claims 3 through 4 and 9 through 11 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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